

ABSTRACT

Malaysia – Indonesia relations have become increasingly problematic and complex to manage in a post-Mahathir/Suharto era. The unequal pace of the democratization pattern in both countries has largely contributed to this state of affairs. The four key ‘transnational’ variables or determinants such as migrant labor, mass media, non-governmental organizations and people to people contact have significantly impacted on Malaysia's ties with Indonesia against the backdrop of the unequal domestic political changes. Bilateral relations could yet face their severest contradictions when official diplomacy is incapable of reflecting accurately popular sentiments. In effect, the roles of state and non state actors have been instrumental in influencing recent developments of Malaysia–Indonesia relations.

This thesis underlines the importance of IMYEP as government sponsored program to restore what was once the essence of Indonesia – Malaysia relations which was pride as genecology based relations. To obtain accurate and factual data, under the concept of People to People Diplomacy this thesis assess 5 main aspects of IMYEP relevancy towards the duty as agent of people to people diplomacy between Indonesia – Malaysia.

Based on the result, IMYEP is still considered to be one of the best instruments to act as an agent of people to people strategy between Indonesia and Malaysia regardless its lack of some technical disparity. It is believed that IMYEP is building a foundation in which will be matter in a long period of time.

Keywords : IMYEP, Youth, Indonesia-Malaysia Relations, people to people diplomacy, perception, general impression, collective value, public diplomacy, cultural exchange, state representative, cross-cultural understanding, leadership, entrepreneurship.